



THE BELLOWS

27 GREAT YEAR

September 15, 2005

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXVII. No. 1

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. South...Turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, September 15th, 7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:00 p.m.)
WHY	A short business meeting..auction (one item lot per member please)..door prize..Show & Tell..Members' trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover during business meeting) <u>Program:</u> This is the time to bring in, and brag about, the treasures you found during your summer wonderings. If you have something new to you please bring it to share with us.

IT'S SEPTEMBER! TIME FOR P.S.P.C.S. TO BEGIN AGAIN:

Welcome to the start of our 27th great year. It is hoped that you all had an interesting and productive summer. That you found the time between mowing the lawn, grilling burgers and driving long distances to see places others drove long distances to get away from; to find some summer treasures...which you will share with all of us at the meeting.

This could be a very special year for our club. We have signed a contract with the Puyallup Fair for our Show date the last Saturday in April. However, based on our table sales and buyer turnout from last year, we may find that this is the last year it will make any sense for P.S.P.C.S. to host our Show. We will have to see if our 26th Great Show will be our last. Please consider joining us on our Show committee. New "blood" with fresh ideas and helping hands are always welcome...and this might be your last chance to be part of your club's main activity of the year....not counting the Christmas party of course.

Just what is the current situation regarding the interest in, and collecting of, old photographica? I wish I knew. What we do know is that digital photography is not "the wave of the future"...it has taken over. The debate is closed as far as the vast camera using public is concerned. The only people who want non-digital equipment anymore are a very few film fanatics and collectors like ourselves. The problem seems to be, however, that the number of collectors is steadily decreasing. Why this is, is a mystery to me. I know some other collecting hobbies still have strong support and continue to get new members. For example, the interest in collecting "good for" tokens and post cards remains high with new members coming in and good prices being paid.

In this regard I encountered a most odd, and potentially bad for our hobby, situation on my last "treasurer" hunt in June. As I told several of you, I found three nice cameras to add to my collection. One in Eastern Oregon, One in Idaho and one in Southern Oregon. Great you say. Well, here is..the rest of the story. In each instance the camera was priced at about what you would expect to find in an antique shop...too much by at least a third. When I inquired if the dealer would lower the price the response in each case was, "Oh, sure. I've had that %\$# camera around here for months and no one has shown an interest in it." Ok, so I got them for a nice price. However, they should not have even been there for me to find. In past "normal" times some other collector would have paid the asking price..or close to it..and gone happily on his/her way. My point being that the number of collector buyers seems to be on the wain. Not

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The June meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:00 p.m. There were twenty-eight members and guests in attendance. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as read. Treasurer reported the Club was in the black but that dues for 2006, beginning in September, will be much appreciated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Bill Kimber has signed the contract with the Puyallup Fair for our 2006 Show. Treasurer, Shirley, sent a deposit of \$2,500 to the Fair to insure our agreed upon date. There should be no increase in table prices eventhough it is hoped that we will be able to provide 8' tables for the first time this year. Show Committee member, Walt Hughson, is working on a table floor plan to present to the Show Committee at it's first meeting in November.

NEW BUSINESS:

Besides announcements of up coming events etc.; a long discussion was held on the pros and cons of again doing some form of a mini Show in October. In the end, nothing was decided and the subject was tabled. It was announced that member Dr. Gross would be needing a ride each month to our meetings. Several members volunteered to be sure he had one.

SHOW & TELL & PROGRAM:

Eight members had some nice interesting items for Show & Tell and/or, as part of the evenings' program, showed a favorite cameras they liked to use when taking pictures.

AUCTION AND DOOR PRIZE:

Just two items were sold...netting their sellers fifteen dollars.

The door prize was won by Lowell Wines.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. for more buying, selling and nummie munching.

THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION:

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Western Photographic Historical Society:

What metal box camera has a checkerboard face plate?



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is www.pspcs.org

Dues are \$20.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916, ssparrow@eburg.com P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our 4th Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DARREL WOMACK (206) 244-6831 DARRELCAM@COMCAST.NET

only are there not new collectors coming in...the number of old collectors is falling. My thought? Right now...if you were planning to retire on the profits from the sale of you wonderful collection of old photographica...you best get your treasures on E-Bay fast and hope you can find some eager buyers somewhere in the World who you can unload your "stuff" on. Or, you could always have your house catch on fire.

On that happy thought lets look forward to another fun filled year of being the best photographica collecting Club on the West coast. See you at the meeting.

TWO FALL SHOWS ARE ALMOST HERE:

The Vancouver B.C. Camera Show and Swap meet will be held Sunday, October 2nd, at the Cameron Rec. Center...9523 Cameron at Lougheed Mall, Burnaby B.C. Canada. There are 180 tables for rent at \$40 each. Admission is \$4.00 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m...\$15.00 early bird at 9 a.m. Kids under 14 get in free with an adult. For all the information call or fax Siggie at: 604 941-0300. This has been a good Show in the past and you get the added bonus of a weekend in Vancouver. Remember, bring your psssport, etc. so you can cross the boarder without having to leave your first born as a hostage.

On Saturday, October 8th, the Mt. Hood community College is hosting another Fall Photo Swap Meet at the Jackson Armory, 6255 NE Cornfoot Road. (It is west of Hwy. 205 in the Portland Airport area). This has been a good show in the past. I know it opens early and the table costs and entry fee are resonable. However, your editor seems to have lost whatever notice of it he once had. (Fires can do that to a person.) If any member has their Show information sheet please bring it to the September meeting. Sorry, Ed.

WHY ARE WE ALWAYS THE LAST TO KNOW?

Two of our members have been getting their names in other publications. Thanks to Bob Kelly we now know that member, John Sparrow, won First Place in the Third Annual Cascades Mountain-Echo Photo Contest. His color photograph of an early morning winter scene outside his home is very nice.

And, from the Photographica Digest of the Western Photographic Historical Society located in Tucson, Arizona...we learn that P.S.P.C.S. member, Gary Sivertsen will be staying over after attending their October 2 Show so he can present his slide show, on his recent trip to China, at their October 6th meeting. The story indicates that Gary is also making plans to move to the Tucson area in the near future. Well, our loss will be their gain. Now, who is going to buy all our meeting auction items to put on e-Bay?

OCTOBER PROGRM TO BE SPECIAL:

Make plans now to attend our October Meeting on the 20th. Portland, Oregon member, Ralph London is coming north to do a program..complete with slides..on Walter Dorwin Teague: Master Camera Design. As you know, old Walt did some very neat camera designs during the Art Deco period, as well as several camras for Polaroid. Two of his best loved designs are the Kodak Beau Brownie box, and the Bantam Special....both of which were part of the Art Deco exhibit from Britain that toured this country about a year ago. I know Ralph will give an excellent presentation...one you should not miss.

The following is from The Chicago Photographic Collectors Society and used with thanks. Ed.

**Caught on the Internet:
Leica News**

The German website, *Spiegel Online*, has reported that Leica is in financial crisis after many banks partially terminated their credit lines following an announcement in March which said that the company stood to lose half of its operating capital. The remaining credit lines still cover the current liquidity requirements. Leica, which introduced the first commercially successful 35mm still camera in 1924, is also expected to close the financial year with an operating loss of \$13 million. Last year Leica Camera AG, Solms, reported a loss of \$2.1 million. Shareholders will hold a meeting on May 31 to discuss the future of the company. *Spiegel Online* says that Leica has missed the boat where digital photography is concerned and is also suffering the effects of a low rate of the US dollar versus the Euro. Leica, always slow to change and concerned with producing the very best, has been swept aside by the fast pace of the digital world

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Kodak X's Black & White Paper

Information appearing on the net June 15, 2005 detailed Kodak's decision to bail out of the black and white print paper business at the end of the year. They cite a 25% annual drop in sales as well as a rapid shift to digital printing excites more users. The article noted that Kodak currently manufactures the product in Brazil and it is part of a three-year plan to eliminate 12,000-15,000 jobs by 2007.

In April Kodak indicated a \$142 million first quarter loss. This result was caused by a decline in sales of film and other chemical-based materials and an unexpected increase in material and labor costs. At the same time Ilford emerged from bankruptcy last year by a management-led buyout and Germany's AgfaPhoto GmbH filed for bankruptcy this May.

This violent shift in photographic demand from chemical based imaging to the digital process has left many businesses in dire financial problems and has meant a boom to many others who shifted their business gears to ride the digital swell. So far, from the viewpoint of many, the shift has been on a mega scale to businesses who have invested heavily quickly to producing the components for this phenomenon. Many are new businesses, others have shifted to digital products. Others were unable,

because of size and lack of buying power, to make the transition in a profitable way to this low profit-high investment new business format. Also the fast paced evolution of technology and product change has eliminated many of the traditional photo shops or stores.

The color film and paper industry has surely been impacted highly and when the prices of high profit digital ink drops we will see less use of traditional color materials. Progress is inevitable and eventually most will succumb to it.

What metal box camera has a checkerboard face plate?

Answer:
The rival 120 Elite camera made by the Metropolitan Industries, Chicago, IL. Prices for this unique design range from \$12 to \$20.



Photo courtesy McKeown's.